

was that their health insurance policies were about to run out and they did not know where to turn.

We have been discussing what should be done on a recovery package for the Nation, but I know from firsthand experience we really must focus attention on New York's needs in terms of unemployment insurance, disaster unemployment assistance, and the extension of health care benefits in order to give some help to those people who, through no fault of their own, were left unemployed directly because of the attacks.

Similarly, we have to continue to support both the public and the private sector in meeting the needs that come out of 9-11.

I thank Chairman BAUCUS and ranking member Senator GRASSLEY for their help to Senator SCHUMER and myself as we have tried to draft policies that will make a direct impact on the financial burdens being shouldered by the public and private sector. We need tax incentives. We need bonding authority. We need advanced refunding authority. All of that has been worked through the Finance Committee. A similar proposal has passed the House. I am hopeful we will be able to get something along those lines through the Congress and to the President very soon, either standing alone or as part of a larger economic recovery proposal.

One issue that is now more pressing than when we left a month ago is the impact on States across the Nation of the economic slowdown and of 9-11. We are seeing increases in unemployment in many parts of the country. We see many people lose their health insurance. We expect to see millions more added to the Medicaid roles. It has been predicted that the number of children on Medicaid could increase as much as 11.3 percent. At a time when State budgets are already reeling from reduced revenues, when States—unlike the Federal Government—have to run a balanced budget, they cannot spend more than they take in. They may not have the resources needed to address these increasing health needs.

That is why I hope, in a bipartisan manner, we can provide some relief to States. They are desperate for it. Whether Republican or Democratic Governor, we are hearing they need help. They need help not only to meet health needs but also law enforcement and homeland security needs. If we do not provide direct assistance to cities and counties, they are going to be running in the red, with the overtime they are now paying and with the additional responsibilities imposed on police, firefighters, and emergency workers.

We have our work cut out for us. I am confident that under the leadership in this body and in the House and with the support of the administration we can meet the needs of New York and we can assure the people who were so directly devastated by these attacks that we stand with them.

Earlier today I was privileged to be at the White House. It was a nostalgic

return visit for me, sitting in the East Room, surrounded by my colleagues from New York, New Jersey, and Virginia, all of whom had gathered to witness the President signing the Victims Tax Relief Act, something I fought very hard for because it was a tangible way of providing assistance to those who were directly impacted with the loss of a loved one on 9-11. I am proud we included Oklahoma City victims and victims of the anthrax attacks because we need to demonstrate America is united not only in our war against terrorism but on behalf of the victims of terrorism. I was very proud when the President signed that bill, surrounded by so many of the families from New York and New Jersey with whom I have met, as well as other families from around the country who lost a loved one on one of the planes in the Pentagon attack or in the fields of Pennsylvania.

It was a very reassuring moment to see how all levels of government were supporting those who woke up on September 11—on a beautiful autumn day for flying, for going to work, for minding one's own business—and ended a day having lost a relative, a friend, knowing their lives would never be the same.

I strongly hope Congress will pass this resolution and reaffirm our commitment to New York by continuing to provide the much needed Federal assistance that New Yorkers require to recover from these horrific attacks that were, as we know so well, attacks on America.

I appreciate this opportunity to take a few minutes to set the stage and remind everyone that, although we face future challenges with the continuing war on terrorism to make sure national security is as strong as we can make it, to ensure we are doing everything possible to enhance our homeland security and that we take necessary steps to assure economic security in the face of the economic downturn and the attacks on 9-11, that we also remain united behind the needs of New York.

It is an honor to represent New York. It is often a challenge to convey the needs I see every day. I try to do my best to speak for those who will never stand in this Chamber but who are living every day with the consequences of those horrific attacks. It is such an honor to represent such brave and courageous Americans as I do in New York. I look forward to the continuing help I have received with such graciousness from my colleagues to make sure that New Yorkers know America stands with us.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CARNAHAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HOPE FOR CHILDREN ACT

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I move to proceed to H.R. 622, and I ask unanimous consent that the pending farm bill not be displaced by the adoption of this motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 622) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the adoption credit, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2698

(Purpose: To provide incentives for an economic recovery, and for other purposes)

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I have an amendment at the desk and ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE], for himself and Mr. BAUCUS, proposes an amendment numbered 2698.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I express my appreciation to the distinguished Republican leader for this ongoing effort to try to get to this point. This is not what he would have subscribed to; this is not what I would have subscribed to necessarily.

Basically what this does is provide us with an opportunity to move forward on an economic stimulus package. It is open to amendment. But what I have done with the amendment I have just offered to the bill, H.R. 622, which is the adoption tax credit bill that had been on the calendar, is simply provide an opportunity now for us to move forward.

The amendment I have just offered is comprised of the four components I have been talking about on the floor and off the floor. The amendment includes, first, the bonus depreciation legislation, the tax rebate, the unemployment legislation, and the so-called FMAP, the resources provided to the States to help them offset the cost of Medicaid.

Those four components are components in various forms, of course, that have been supported by Republicans and Democrats. It is the right of any Senator now to offer an amendment,

whether it is the complete substitute that some might prefer or targeted amendments dealing with these four components or something else.

My hope is, however, at some point in the not too distant future we can complete our work on this and go to conference so we can ultimately complete our work on a bill that enjoys both House and Senate support and hopefully the support of the President as well.

That is, in essence, what we have done today. I appreciate the help and the cooperative effort that has been made by a number of our colleagues, not the least of whom is the Republican leader. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I believe Senator DASCHLE has appropriately described the procedure that is being employed in this situation. It is highly appropriate we begin this new year by trying to work through the amendments and the process that can get us to an economic security package.

I do think the economy needs some stimulus. I do think we need additional unemployment compensation. I think we need to look at ways to give incentives to small businessmen and women to create jobs so we have growth in the economy, so we are not just trying to help our people make sure they have something to live on this week but so they can get and have a good paying job in the future.

We could debate about when we should have done it and how we should do it, but the fact is we should do this. We have talked back and forth during the past 24 hours about the best way to proceed. I obviously thought the best way to proceed was to call up the House-passed bipartisan bill, have it open for amendment and debate and see how it moved and to get a vote on that, but we could not come to agreement to get that done.

We also looked at coming up with this so-called common approach with the four components and limiting amendments. Part of the problem was the fourth item, the Federal assistance to the States. The way it was going to be introduced was not in the bipartisan House-passed package so it was thought this was not a common approach provision by our people.

There also was some resistance, I think in both conferences, to say we can only have two or three amendments. I believe by having an opportunity to offer amendments on both sides after a reasonable period of time Members are going to make a decision. We need to go ahead and get this done and get it to conference or, if we cannot come to agreement on something, it deserves to go forward. It is going to be difficult because at this point procedurally 60 votes are required for amendments or substitutes. We will have a full debate. We will have a chance to offer amendments, and I

think it is necessary and appropriate that we try to get a stimulus package done.

So after a lot of discussion back and forth, this is the best procedure we could purpose. We did not require a vote on the motion to proceed to the bill that was being used to call up this procedure, and we are not filibustering it. We want it resolved. I think this could get it resolved, but it is going to be tough. It is going to take some give and take on both sides. We have to try to come up with something that will enjoy bipartisan support to get 60 votes. We will see if we can get that done. It is certainly worth the effort.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CREATING A NEW BUREAU OF INDIAN TRUST ASSET MANAGEMENT

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, it has long been recognized that the Department of the Interior's Indian trust fund accounting and management systems have struggled with the challenge of meeting the Government's trust responsibility to Native Americans. Shortly before the Christmas break, to her credit, the Secretary of the Interior acknowledged this fact and proposed reorganizing the way the Department handles its trust asset management responsibilities.

The Secretary has proposed creating a new Bureau of Indian Trust Asset Management to manage Indian trusts. It is now the job of the Department, Congress, and the tribes to assess how this plan would work in practice.

Tribal leaders in South Dakota have emphasized to me their concern that any BIA reorganization plan that has not been thoroughly discussed with the Native American community nationwide could hold potentially adverse consequences for tribal members. The leaders of the nine tribes in my State, for example, ask how such a proposal would address the underlying issues of trust fund management in light of the pending Cobell vs. Norton class action suit; how it would impact funding for other programs upon which tribes depend; and how it would affect the self-governance of Tribes.

These are legitimate questions, and tribal leaders and their members deserve satisfactory answers prior to the implementation of any reorganization plan. I hope that a more concerted effort will be made, by the Department and Congress, to involve tribal leaders fully in the decision-making process on the BIA reorganization effort. Certainly no significant organizational changes within the BIA should be made without adequate consultation with tribal leaders across the country. The essence of the Federal Government's trust relationship with the tribes requires no less.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JEFFREY W. PRICHARD, U.S. AIR FORCE

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding Air Force officer, Major Jeff "JoBu" Prichard, upon his departure from my staff. Major Prichard was selected as an Air Force Fellow to work in my office during the First Session of the 107th Congress due to his outstanding professional reputation and superior knowledge of Defense issues, the United States Air Force requirements process, and the military presence in my home State. He has been a valued team member and it is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and the superior service he has provided the United States Senate, the Air Force, and our Nation.

Major Prichard, a native of the State of Mississippi, graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant through the Reserve Officer Training Corps, ROTC. Since then, Major Prichard has spent the majority of his career patrolling the world's skies as an Air Force fighter pilot. Following flight training, he began his service flying the F-15C "Eagle" in the 67th Fighter Squadron, 18th Tactical Fighter Wing in Okinawa, Japan. During this tour, Major Prichard was selected as a member of the 18th Wing team that won the 1992 Worldwide William Tell Air-to-Air Weapons Competition and he out flew all competitors to win the coveted "Topgun" Trophy. After his tour in Japan, he reported to the 60th Fighter Squadron in Ft. Walton Beach, FL, where he deployed in support of Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY in Haiti and Operation SOUTHERN WATCH where he lead 34 combat missions patrolling the skies over Iraq enforcing the no-fly zone. Also during this tour, Major Prichard attended the Air Force's Weapons School at Nellis AFB, NV, and in September 1996 was handpicked to return as an instructor. In 1999, Major Prichard left the cockpit to serve on the staff of the Secretary of the Air Force in Washington, DC, as the Air-to-Air Missile Program Manager and then was selected to serve as a Military Legislative Fellow during the 1st session of the 107th Congress.

Major Prichard quickly became a valued member of my staff sharing his